



FY20 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



NOAA OFFICE OF WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY

Supporting world-class research to advance timely and accurate weather information





OWAQ: COORDINATING RESEARCH ACROSS THE WEATHER ENTERPRISE

Within NOAA's research laboratories and across the weather enterprise, OWAQ provides the outreach, linkages, and coordination that help NOAA develop and access critical weather and air quality research capabilities





Vision: A weather-ready nation informed by world-class weather research.

Mission: Finding, funding, and fostering collaborative weather and air quality research to discover, develop, and transition products, tools, and services for timely and accurate weather and air quality forecasts.

OWAQ: *Supporting world-class research to advance timely and accurate weather information*



OWAQ's Diverse Programs



OWAQ manages 9 external competitions with over 120 active projects

- Not all competitions are run every year (7 in FY19; 3 in FY20)



- A NOFO is an opportunity to combine all competitions into one announcement
- Starting in FY19, OWAQ adopted the “omnibus” approach





OWAQ's NOFO: The Omnibus Approach

The strategy:

- Standardize as much as possible across competitions
 - Competition dates, proposal format and content, review criteria
 - Reporting requirements
- Leave details up to individual programs
 - Funding amounts, funding duration, project start dates, letters of intent
 - Project status and goals (starting capabilities, R2X transition expectations, etc.)
 - Review process (one-stage vs. two; panel vs. individual)
- Program managers develop objectives and science priorities
 - Collaboration with operational centers: what output is *needed*?





Application Process



1. NOFO Published on grants.gov
2. Letters of Intent (LOI)
 - **Only if required by the specific program**
 - Due via email about 1 month after NOFO publication
 - Helps OWAQ gauge number of applicants and provide initial feedback to potential applicants
 - Contains a list of PIs, proposed work plan, and estimated budget
3. LOI Response
 - Provides PIs with a recommendation to proceed or not proceed with a full proposal
 - Response occurs about 1 month after LOI submission deadline
4. Application Deadline
 - Final, hard deadline to submit full proposal via grants.gov
5. Decisions and Awards



Determining a Schedule: Consider Stakeholders

- Science Community
 - *Conferences, workshops, etc.*
- University Researchers
 - *Academic calendars, graduate student schedules*
- Non-Research Staff
 - *Time required to collect, approve, and submit applications*
- NOAA Grants Management
 - *Time required to process and turn around*
- All People Involved!
 - *Holidays, vacation, typical travel schedules*
- Issues beyond our control
 - *Lapse in government appropriations, etc.*





FY20 OWAQ NOFO



- Competitions
 - Joint Technology Transfer Initiative (JTTI)
 - Climate Testbed
 - VORTEX-SE

- Key Dates

September 17, 2019	LOI Deadline
October 16, 2019	Expected LOI Response
November 20, 2019	Full Proposal Deadline
March 2020	Final Funding Selections



Considerations for Shaping the NOFO

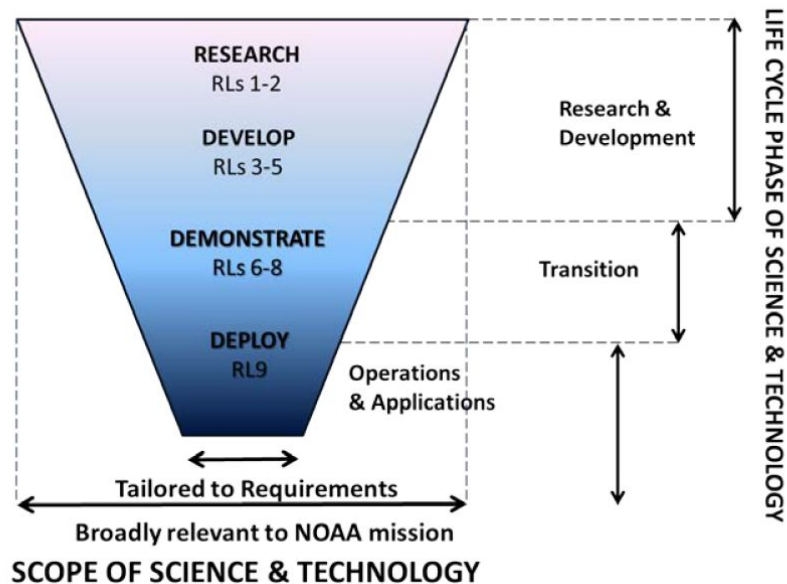
- Alignment with official documents
 - Weather Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017 and Reauthorization
 - OAR and OWAQ Strategic Plans and Annual Operating Plans
 - NWS Strategic Plan
- Supporting Diversity and Inclusion
 - In demographics, perspectives, and experience





Considerations for Shaping the NOFO

- Use of Transition metrics and planning documentation
 - NOAA Readiness Levels (NOAA Policy [NAO216-105B](#))
 - Transition Plans (for all planned R2X projects; see [NOAA OAR Handbook](#))
 - Test Plans (for all testbed projects)





Components of a Full Proposal

What information can Principal Investigators provide up-front to help us identify appropriate reviewers and R2X collaborators, and minimize duplication of effort?



- Plain-language abstract
- Identify relevance to testbeds, social science, and use of human subjects
- Technology transfer outcomes (i.e., R2X) and Readiness Levels
- Data Management Plan
- High-Performance Computing (HPC) requirements
- Budgets
- PI and Co-PI info (contact info, CVs, current and pending support, etc.)
- Statement of Diversity and Inclusion



Review Criteria

- Relevance to Program
- Technical and Scientific Merit
- Qualifications of Applicants
- Project Cost
- Education, Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion





Important Considerations for Pls

- Federal applicants are limited
 - OWAQ's NOFO is an *external* (to NOAA) competition intended to engage external community
 - No Federal salaries can be covered, and Federal applicants must have external partners
 - Only non-NOAA institutions submit proposals to this NOFO
- Applying to multiple competitions is allowed
 - ...but they must be different proposed projects
- Identify and engage partners throughout the process
 - The ultimate goal is an eventual transition of research to *apply* the research findings
 - Touch base with the appropriate testbed or proving ground
- Leave NOAA's operational transitions to the NWS
 - If NWS decides to adopt a product, the work to complete the transition is *not* covered by OAR
- Institutional Review Board requirements for human test subjects





Common Mistakes

- Applying to an inappropriate competition
 - Triple-check that the project aligns with the specific competition's science priorities
- Not thinking about the “big picture”
 - OWAQ's competitions focus on enabling research transitions
 - Consider the end-user: what is the next step after the funding period ends?
 - Your proposal reviewer may not be an expert in your specific subject matter
- Being overly vague
 - Show that you have a refined R&D strategy and have considered possible risks
- Unrealistic scope
 - Are your research **and transition** goals realistic and achievable?
- Waiting until the last minute to apply
 - How many applications will your institution have to process at the deadline?





Supplemental Information

- Each competition provides a supplementary Information Sheet along with the NOFO on grants.gov
- OWAQ is developing an extensive website with additional information:
 - FAQs
 - Proposal checklists
 - Individual pages containing information for each OWAQ program
 - Email account dedicated to NOFO correspondence
OAR.OWAQ.competitions@noaa.gov



PRINCIPLES:

INTEGRITY:

Act with honesty in all situations.

TRUST:

Build trust in all office and stakeholder relationships.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Accept responsibility for all decisions.

TRANSPARENCY:

Maintain open and truthful communications.

VIABILITY:

Create long-term value.



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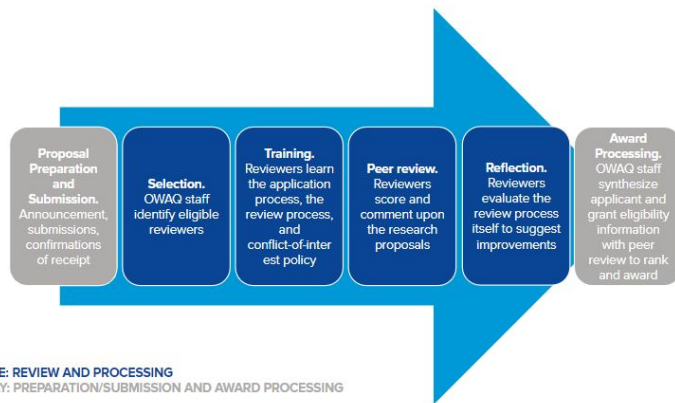
Grant Proposal Reviewers



Each Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) that the Office of Weather and Air Quality (OWAQ) publishes requires a thorough peer review. If you would like to serve as a reviewer (via mail or panel review), please email the address below. Signing up does not commit you to serve, nor will OWAQ be obligated to invite you to serve on a review panel or perform mail review. If your expertise and our reviewer needs match, the relevant OWAQ program will be in touch. Thank you for your interest.



Volunteer today by contacting owaq.reviewers@noaa.gov or sign up [here](#).





For More Information

- Email OAR.OWAQ.competitions@noaa.gov
- See official announcement via grants.gov (September 2019)



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